

County of Los Angeles CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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June 22, 2001

To:

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Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky

Supervisor Don Knabe

From:

David E. Janssen

Chief Administrative Officer

STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

State Budget Conference Committee Report No. 9

The Conference Committee met last night from about 8:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., and will reconvene today at 3 p.m. Pursuant to repeated requests by Senator Peace for an estimate of the State's reserve, the Department of Finance returned with an estimate of \$1.866 billion. That estimate is based on the Conference Committee's actions through last night. The \$1.866 billion figure is still short of the \$2.5 billion to \$3.0 billion requested by the Administration. Also yet to be decided are the Republicans' proposals to maintain the State's quarter-cent sales tax reduction and to dedicate certain funding for highway expansion beginning in FY 2006-07.

The Conferees acted last night to approve Trailer Bill Language proposed by Assembly Member Jenny Oropeza to take \$40 million from the Los Angeles County State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) to fund a Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) grade separation project. When the issue was presented, it was opposed by the Department of Finance and CalTrans and generated a fair amount of debate. See additional discussion of this issue in Pursuit of County Positions.

The Lancaster Veteran's Home is now one step closer to being funded. The Conference Committee unanimously adopted the Assembly version of the Budget which provides \$12 million in bond funds to build the Home and Budget Bill Language defining the scope of the project. Both the Legislative Analyst's Office and the Department of Finance had recommended adoption of the Senate version which did not contain any funding.

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Although the Committee had hoped to complete its work by today, it is unclear at this time if that goal will be met.

Pursuit of County Positions

Budget

As mentioned above, the Budget Conference Committee approved Trailer Bill Language diverting \$40 million of Los Angeles County STIP funds to complete work on a PCH grade separation project. While we support the PCH grade separation project, we cannot support the use of local funds for this CalTrans project. Therefore, consistent with Board policy to oppose measures which further erode local revenues, our Sacramento advocates will be opposing the use of local STIP funds for a CalTrans project.

Legislation

AB 819 (Jackson and Shelley) amends the intent language of the existing School Safety and Violence Prevention Act (Act) to include age-appropriate instruction in domestic violence prevention, including dating and interpersonal violence prevention for K-12 public schools that receive funds under the Act. The Department of Community and Senior Services recommends that the County support AB 819, indicating this measure will bring domestic violence prevention education into our classrooms so that children can learn from an early age that domestic violence is a crime and unacceptable behavior. Support for AB 819 is consistent with existing policy to support efforts to promote education and training in the area of domestic violence. Therefore, our Sacramento advocates will be supporting AB 819. This measure passed the Assembly by a vote of 76-0 and is currently at the Senate Desk awaiting referral to a policy committee.

Status of County-interest Legislation

County-supported AB 771 (Runner), which would abolish the Antelope Valley Air Pollution Control District and create the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District as an entity exempt from County civil service rules, passed out of the Senate Committee on Local Government on June 20, 2001 on a vote of 5-0 and was referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

County-supported AB 935 (Hertzberg), which would establish the Public Interest Attorney Loan Repayment Program for licensed attorneys who practice or agree to practice in public interest areas of the law, was amended on June 20, 2001 to include employment in a child support agency as part of the definition of public interest area of the law. The amendment also increased the amount of time an applicant must work in a public interest area of the

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law from three months to one year in order to qualify for repayment of student loans. The amendments are consistent with your Board's action to support this measure.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK IGR:md

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist
Coalition of County Unions
California Contract Cities Association
Independent Cities Association
League of California Cities
City Managers Associations
Buddy Program Participants